

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A hand held wire stripper has ergonomic handles and special cutting blades on two pivotally connected lever members defining the handles and offset jaws having working edges adjacent each other when the wire stripper is in a closed position. The jaws have aligned cutting blade sections at the working edges that taper from the edges in at least two oblique angles with respect to the edges. In addition or alternatively, the cutting blade section defines a plurality of serrations aligned with the serrations of the other lever member. The elongated handles each have a rear grip and a forward grip separated by an outward extension. The forward grips extend forward from the outward extensions toward the hinge point so as to receive a thumb and forefinger of a user and allow gripping of the handles adjacent the hinge point.